preparation of neighborhood plans, which often have a historic preservation component, handling re-zonings, and assisting with the formation of historic preservation overlay districts.

Prescott has begun the process of proactively re-zoning some areas, and although none of these are historic district re-zonings at this time, this work will set the stage for the concept of city-initiated down-zoning in the community. An overlay district that limits building heights in the downtown has been approved.

Information about historic district designations, for both National Register and historic preservation overlay districts has been entered into the city's Geographic Information System (GIS). Accessing the GIS system provides this specialized data for any parcel of land to which it applies. Also, the GIS allows us to make many types of customized maps. The dozens of maps that are included in the *Plan* were produced with GIS technology.

The Future of the Historic Preservation Master Plan

Historic preservation is a very important component of Prescott's tourism and service-based economy. The implementation of the *Plan* is a priority of management staff, and an analysis is currently in process that will set the priorities for the implementation and help to move historic preservation to the forefront in the community. This will not be an instant accomplishment, but planning for the implementation of the *Plan,* including the continuous updating of the *Plan,* will help to ensure that it is not a document that simply sits on a shelf, but will assist Prescott in taking our past into the future.

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Nancy L. Burgess has been the half-time historic preservation specialist for the City of Prescott since August 1990. Prior to working for the city, she served as a member, Vice-Chairman, and Chairman of the Prescott Preservation Commission, and was very involved in creating the 1990 Historic Preservation Ordinance for the City of Prescott. With the exception of the 1978 Multiple Resource Area National Register nomination for Prescott, Ms. Burgess has prepared all of the historic district nominations for Prescott.

Illustrations courtesy City of Prescott, Arizona.

Geographic Information Systems and Prescott's Historic Preservation Master Plan

October 1996 brought the City of Prescott kicking and screaming into the 20th century with respect to Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Over the past three years, Prescott's GIS division has been developing tools to bring together a citywide GIS application for viewing, reviewing, and reporting on a variety of spatial information. GIS users have the ability to check individual parcels or lots for a multitude of information, which is available in both map and tabular form. In respect to the historic preservation data, the GIS is used to reference differing historic preservation overlay districts and National Register historic districts. These can be global (all encompassing) references or single parcel queries. The goal of the GIS is to gather and store pertinent information to meet the needs of the users within the Community Development Department (which includes our historic preservation specialist). A single tool button has been developed to display all information contained inside a particular parcel. Information includes historic preservation overlay districts, the National Register historic districts, other zoning overlay districts, zoning, site address information, owner information, and land use information. This tool is a quick way to document any issues that may affect one's decisionmaking process about a piece of property—a one-stop-shop for zoning information.

In the future, digital imagery will be linked to existing historic preservation overlay district and National Register historic district parcels to both document current status, parcel by parcel, as well as engineer a "virtual" walk of Prescott's historic properties. This may include three-dimensional "maps" along with historic and contemporary photographs.

Timothy Smothers
GIS Coordinator
City of Prescott